

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

Tell the story about how you first learned about Jesus and who was instrumental to you becoming a follower of His.

Describe a time when you had an opportunity to share about your own faith in Jesus with an unbeliever. How did that go? What did you learn from that experience? What would you do differently if given another chance?

Read Acts 1:1-11. How does the surrounding context inform us about what Jesus was saying to his disciples?

Do you think this call to be Christ's witnesses extends to all believers or just to pastors and Christian leaders? Explain why or why not.

What role does the Holy Spirit play in our being witnesses? Have you ever experienced the Spirit empowering you in this way? Explain.

Notice that Jesus says we are not to "do" witnessing, but rather to "be" witnesses. What is the difference?

Look at the following two stories from John's Gospel and explain what each of them can teach us about being a witness:

- John 4:1-42

- John 9:1-34

What are some ways a person can be a witness for Jesus in our world today?

In your experience, what are some things that get in the way of being an effective witness?

Look up 1 Peter 3:15. What does this verse tell us to be prepared to do? How should we go about this?

Do you think there is a difference between being a witness and doing evangelism? Why or why not?

What do the following verses say about being an evangelist:

- Ephesians 4:11

- Acts 21:8

- 2 Timothy 4:5

From these verses, what might the difference be between being an evangelist and being a witness?

Have you ever known someone with the gift of evangelism? How was that gift expressed?

How did Philip express this gift of evangelism in Acts 8:4-8; 26-40?

We know that Jesus called us to be the salt and light in this world (Matthew 5:13-16). In his book, *unChristian*: David Kinsman writes: "Being salt and light demands two things: we practice purity in the midst of a fallen world and yet we live in proximity to this fallen world. If you don't hold up both truths in tension, you invariably become useless and separated from the world God loves."

Evaluate how you are doing in being salt and light and how you can take steps towards both purity and presence.